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But by the end of April, Halliburton expects to finally cut its size to about 45,000 employees in 70 countries, with about 4,000 in Houston. KBR government contracting and construction unit will reduce its size to about 45,000 employees in 70 countries, with about 4,000 in Houston.

But as is often the case with Halliburton, the announcement raised even more questions. Halliburton did not say where the jobs would be added or in which business units, it did not say which types of positions it needed to fill. Nor did it say why it didn't mention the hiring plans with the Dual announcement, which might have helped dampen fears the company is tip-toeing out of the U.S. further complicated the company's opening of the CEO's office in the United Arab Emirates.

Halliburton spokeswoman Melissa Norcross said the memo was meant "to give details and said Lane was not available."

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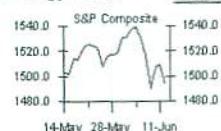
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So the addition of 13,000 new jobs at Halliburton will be significant. It represents more than a 30 percent increase in its employee headcount.

'It makes sense'

At least one analyst was not surprised by the job boost.

"It makes sense," said David Newcastle with Argus Research in New York. "The whole industry is growing like the space program in the '60s."

In addition to adding employees, U.S. oil-field services companies are also trying to expand their presence in the Middle East.

The region is home to 60 percent of the world's proven oil reserves and is predicted to see more growth than North America in coming years.

Halliburton said Sunday it will move its top office to Dubai and send CEO Dave Lesar there as part of an effort to expand its business in the region.

But the move has drawn criticism from Democrats on Capitol Hill who believe Halliburton is trying to dodge U.S. taxes and increase business with known terrorist nations. Halliburton continues to deny the accusations.

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